LIFT - Learning Improvement from Technology
Geyser Elementary—Prime Applicant District

Partner Districts: Judith Gap Elementary, Judith Gap High School, Winnett K-12, Denton High School, Grass Range Elementary, Grass Range High School, and Winifred K-12
University Mentor(s): MSU-Bozeman Teacher Education Program—Dr. Joan Cook, and MSU-Northern, Stacey Dolezal
Mentor(s) at Large: T.E.S.T., Northern Rockies Education Services
Internal Evaluator: Dr. Changhua Wang—Northwest Regional Education Laboratory

Abstract: Nine schools from central Montana are partnering to form the Learning Improvement from Technology (LIFT) Consortium to facilitate collaboration and coordination to effectively integrate current technology and research-based instructional methods into their classrooms. It is designed to develop and implement quality on-going professional development to support teachers in restructuring their teaching methods to embed technology, provide continuing evaluation of new pedagogical approaches, and experiment with new technologies and student enrichment materials while focusing on improving student achievement in reading and mathematics. The project will focus on sustainable professional development using Intel Teach to the Future training, a Mentoring model, along with instructional immersion in technology systems. Northern Rockies Educational Services (NRES) and Montana State University-Northern will provide Technology Proficient Mentors who will train and support "Master Trainers" from each school. Total Educational Solutions in Technology (T.E.S.T.) will provide a Technology Integration Mentor that will travel to the schools monthly to work with teachers. Master Trainers (M.T.'s) from each consortium school will receive extensive and broad technology training to enhance their technology skills, strengthen their mentoring capabilities, and identify effective best practices models in technology integration. This will be accomplished through a 40 hour Intel Teach to the Future training course in the summer, followed by on-site trainings, regional cohort meetings, and ongoing support in person and online. The M.T.'s will then provide the Intel training throughout their schools with support of the Technology Integration Mentor. LIFT will host Grade Level/Subject Specific Lesson Development workshops for all teachers completing the Intel Training. This will give teachers the opportunity to network with teachers from other schools while further developing technology rich lessons to be used in the classroom.

In Year 2 of the project, the consortium will work on an organizational framework to expand by inviting other schools in the area to join LIFT, creating a sustainable Regional Technology Network that will pool resources and experience across central Montana. Our evaluation work will explore the effects of technology on instructional quality and provide suggestions for the eventual creation of the broader network in terms of applications of best practices in the local contexts.